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Letter dated 30 September 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 15 September 1998 (A/53/393-S/1998/858), I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, which took place on 17, 18 and 29 September 1998.

On 17 September 1998, two Turkish RF-4F military aircraft entered the northern part of the Nicosia flight information region in violation of international air traffic regulations and of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Kormakitis in the Karpasia region and the south-western area of Paphos and then exiting towards the Ankara flight information region.

On 18 September 1998, 12 Turkish military aircraft (8F-16, 4F-4) entered the south-western Nicosia flight information region in violation of international air traffic regulations and thereafter exited towards the Ankara flight information region.

On the same day, three Turkish military transport aircraft (2 C-130 and 1 C-160) and one CN235 (in a search and rescue mission) entered the northern Nicosia flight information region, flying over the Cape of Apostle Andreas and exiting thereafter towards the Ankara flight information region. The transport aircraft violated the south-western Nicosia flight information region as well. All the aircraft exited towards the Ankara flight information region.

On 29 September 1998, two RF-4F military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia flight information region, violating the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and international air traffic regulations. The aircraft flew over the area of Kormakitis in the Karpasia region and thereafter

one of them violated anew the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the southern part of Larnaca and Limassol, south-west of Paphos and Cape Arnaoutis, while the second one continued its flight within the Nicosia flight information region, at the perimeter of the island. Thereafter, the two aircraft departed towards the Ankara flight information region.

As stated in my previous letters, such intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest against these new provocative acts by Turkey against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. These acts are in blatant disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus. These continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force and the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotirios ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative